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Cc: Claire Crow[ccrow@blm.gov]; Matthew Betenson[mbetenso@blm.gov]
From: Anderson-Gale, Lora
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Subject: Re: WildSNAP Overview and Objectives for Emily on Next Week's Trip
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Given that this is WSA application for public use by volunteers, we are going to have to put our heads together and think about key sites per WSA that we feel comfortable sending a volunteer to monitor, without training. Our vehicle ingress locations are problematic for our own staff to monitor, much less volunteers.

One idea is to pick some of our significant features for monitoring in WSA's. Change over time could be great to monitor some of our heavily visited sites within WSA's that we do get to even once per month. At some point, a site steward training could evolve to include our WSA monitors.

Initially, we might identify a short list of features per WSA for the photo points. We need to chat more but we will have some photo point sites firmed up for Emily's visit next week.

Wahweap: Hoodoos coves

Toadstools: Hoodoos areas including the upper coves

Paria Hackberry: Willis Creek and Paria Townsite

On Mon, Mar 27, 2017 at 12:45 PM, Ginn, Allison <aginn@blm.gov> wrote:

Hello!

BLM-Utah and American Conservation Experience (ACE) partnered to develop an electronic citizen science based monitoring program for Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs). The partnership began in 2012 and beta versions of the app have been made available to volunteer groups and BLM staff in FY14-16. The application, called WildSNAP, is hosted on an external website (WildSNAP.org) and will initially be available for download only to iPads. ACE and BLM-Utah have tentatively scheduled a public launch of WildSNAP on March 31, 2017.

The app will be available to BLM employees and to members of the public who complete a brief required training module. The app allows users to collect information about disturbances, impairments and resources within certain WSAs managed by BLM-Utah using the internal GPS system in an iPad.

The WildSNAP application has several major components

- An Online Training Module for Users with foundational information about WSAs

- A General Orientation Guide within the app with generic WSA management information
- Site-Specific Guides for each WSA within the app (currently 9 individual WSAs)
- The iOS app itself
- A back-end Monitoring Report electronically submitted to BLM for each WSA visit

WildSNAP app users have an individual account that stores information they collect in the field within the app. Once the user reaches a WiFi connection, they can submit a complete report, which is automatically forwarded to the generic email at the appropriate BLM office.

BLM-Utah has developed site specific guides for nine WSAs: Crack Canyon, Mexican Mountain, San Rafael Reef, Sids Mountain, Deep Creek Mountains, North Stansbury Mountains, Spring Creek Canyon, Wah Wah Mountains, and White Rock Range WSAs. In total, BLM manages 86 WSAs in Utah. Additional monitoring guides will be released on a rolling basis.

This is where GSENM comes in... we're looking to add site guides for WSAs near population centers such as Kanab, Escalante, Moab, Monticello, Vernal, etc.

Emily was hired to draft site guides for field review. We wanted to capitalize on my trip to Kanab next week and hit two birds with one stone by focusing on some WSAs near Kanab. After discussions with Lora, we began drafting guides for Paria-Hackberry, Wahweap and The Cockscomb. Emily has used sources we have on record at UTSO, including the DEIS, FEIS and Final Wilderness Study Report and GSENM's backcountry monitoring database to draft a "skeleton" document.

Emily's objectives next week are to 1) confirm that the driving directions to trailheads or point-of-entry are logical/easily understood; 2) collect photos and information that will more accurately describe allowable uses and/or non-conforming uses within the WSA; 3) collect photos facing north, east, south and west from potential key observation points (KOPs); and 4) gather information that will assist WildSNAP app users in understanding any applicable rules or best practices during their monitoring trip (e.g., including information about how/where to get permits if they plan to also camp overnight).

KOPs are points that WildSNAP users are directed to visit to take panoramic photographs and accompanying notes about a particular location. Monitoring areas and KOPs are generally areas of high-use, that experience surface disturbance, or provide a viewpoint where pictures of the landscape can be taken to track impacts and/or changes to wilderness characteristics over time. They are intended to be areas that may have issues that require more frequent monitoring to determine whether the area is improving (or degrading) over time. They should also be points of interest for volunteers. We are hoping to identify KOPs to ~2-6 high priority locations within each WSA (smaller WSAs may be adequately covered by just one KOP). KOPs can be changed in the future. *(Note: KOPs are BLM-identified points for consistent monitoring efforts, but volunteers can use the app to document conditions anywhere within the WSA).*

I'm attaching the General Orientation Guide that applies to all WSAs as well as an example site-specific guide for Crack Canyon.

Regards,

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The National Conservation Lands mission is to conserve,
protect and restore nationally significant landscapes recognized
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